

Select Board Meeting
Monday, August 10, 2020
Regular Meeting
Virtual Meeting Broadcast on Comcast Channel 22 Verizon Channel 45

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Annie Gilbert called the meeting of the Andover Select Board to order at 7:00 P.M. via Web-X. Participating remotely from the Select Board: Alex Vispoli, Laura Gregory, Dan Koh, Chris Huntress and Annie Gilbert-Y. Chris Huntress arrived after the meeting opened.

Others participating remotely: Town Manager Andrew Flanagan, Deputy Town Manager Michael Lindstrom, Assistant Town Manager Patrick Lawlor, Town Counsel Tom Urbelis, Town Clerk Austin Simko. The meeting was duly posted and cablecast live.

Tonight's meeting is completely virtual. Residents can call in at 311 or 978-623-8311 or email manager@andoverma.gov

II. Opening Ceremonies

A. Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting began with a Moment of Silence followed by a Salute to the Flag

III. Communications Announcements Liaison Reports

Annie Gilbert thanked Laura Gregory on her tenure as Chair which, due to COVID-19, has been longer than expected. She also congratulated Dan Koh and his wife on the birth of their new daughter.

The Town Manager said they have reached a major milestone today with restoring town services and bringing staff back to 100%. The Customer Service Center model will continue to be available from 9:00 AM-4:00 PM Monday-Friday. Anyone can come to the front door at Town Hall and most can be serviced without having to come into the building. Memorial Hall Library is also open by appointment. At the next Select Board Meeting, Chief Keefe and his leadership team will provide information on their training protocols. The Town Manager and Asst. Town Manager toured the Merrimack College Campus which has been fully remodeled to be able to bring back anyone who wants to return to campus.

Austin Simko provided an update on the upcoming State Primary Election. Everyone has the ability to vote in one of three ways: in-person on Sept 1st, In-person Early Voting In-person beginning Saturday, August 22-August 28 in the field house at AHS, and the third way is by mail-in early voting. Applications for absentee voting can be downloaded from the Town Website and need to be received by the Town Clerk's Office by Wednesday, August 26th the application can be dropped off at Town Offices and placed in a secure box.

Laura Gregory said she has used the curbside pickup at MHL, it worked flawlessly. She highly recommends it.

Annie Gilbert said the Select Board received a few questions from residents about participation in the remote meetings. If anyone has a comment or question about an item on the agenda they can call 311 or 1- 978-623-8311 if outside of Andover or email manager@andoverma.gov. Comments must pertain to agenda items until we return to in-person meetings.

IV. Public Hearings

A. Columbia Gas

Board to discuss and consider voting to approve a petition of Columbia Gas of Massachusetts to excavate the public highways to replace approximately 3,307 feet of unprotected coated steel and bare steel gas main on Wild Rose Drive (from Hickory Lane to Holly Terrace), and Holly Terrace (from Wild Rose Drive to Lovejoy Road) and to make the necessary house connections along said extensions and to make the necessary house connections. Mike Lindstrom spoke to the public hearing process that can't be held as a normal due to COVID-19 regulations. Each resident received a notice about the hearing. Safety process and potential impact on other projects were reviewed with Columbia Gas as well. Veena Kathapalli from Columbia Gas explained the project and questions were answered by a representative of the construction department. A construction coordinator on site for the duration of the project.

Alex Vispoli asked when Eversource will be taking over Columbia Gas and what has changed relative to safety concerns to reassure residents of the area that all changes have been made. Ed Merritt from Columbia Gas said that change will take place in September/October of this year and safety precautions were previously provided in their report. They have implemented the recommendations of the National Safety Board. This project will take place over a 65-day duration. Any and all changes have to be approved first by the project engineer. Alex asked if updates could be provided to the Town Manager's Office that could be put on the Andover website.

Chris Huntress asked if the plans have been reviewed by the DPW, Fire, and Police. Mr. Merritt said the plans were circulated and the DPW has approved. He has not seen the signoffs by the Fire and Police Departments. Andrew reported that the plan was circulated by he did not see the sign-off sheets. Alex Vispoli asked for a conditional vote upon approval of all departments.

Chris Huntress moved that the Select Board recommend approval of Columbia Gas of Massachusetts to excavate the public highways to replace approximately 3,307 feet of unprotected coated steel and bare steel gas main on Wild Rose Drive (from Hickory Lane to Holly Terrace), and Holly Terrace (from Wild Rose Drive to Lovejoy Road) and to make the necessary house connections along said extensions and with the condition that the appropriate approval signoffs are made by the Fire and Police Departments. Alex Vispoli seconded the motion. Roll call: L. Gregory-Y, D. A. Vispoli-Y, Koh-Y, C. Huntress-Y, and A. Gilbert-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

B. National Grid

Mike Lindstrom reported on the process of accepting questions from residents on these five petitions from National Grid. All residents involved were sent notifications. Dave

Bouchard from National Grid reported on all five projects. Christopher Wellington's contact information was provided on notices that went out to residents.

Chris Huntress moved that the Select Board approve the petition of Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid to excavate the public highways to run and maintain underground conduits, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary for the transmission of electricity on Penacook Place and Apache Avenue. Motion seconded by Dan Koh. Roll call: L. Gregory-Y, D. A. Vispoli-Y, Koh-Y, C. Huntress-Y, and A. Gilbert-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

National Grid

Laura Gregory moved that the Select Board approve the petition of Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid to approve a petition of Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid to excavate the public highways to run and maintain underground conduits, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary for the transmission of electricity on Canterbury Street near Lowell Street as discussed, this evening. Motion seconded by Alex Vispoli. Roll call: A. Vispoli-Y, C. Huntress-Y, D. Koh-Y, L. Gregory-Y, A. Gilbert-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

C. National Grid

Alex Vispoli recommended that the Select Board approve a petition of Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid to excavate the public highways to run and maintain underground conduits, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary for the transmission of electricity on Canterbury Street and Westminster Road. Motion seconded by Dan Koh. Roll call: D. Koh-Y, L. Gregory-Y, C. Huntress-Y, A. Vispoli-Y, A. Gilbert-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

D. National Grid

Alex Vispoli moved that the Select Board approve a petition of Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid to excavate the public highways to run and maintain underground conduits, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary for the transmission of electricity on Carter Lane. Motion seconded by Laura Gregory. Roll call: L. Gregory-Y, D. Koh-Y, C. Huntress-Y, A. Vispoli-Y, A. Gilbert-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

E. National Grid

Laura Gregory moved that the Select Board approve a petition of Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid to excavate the public highways to run and maintain underground conduits, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary for the transmission of electricity on Barbara Lane and David Drive as discussed, this evening. Motion seconded by Alex Vispoli. Roll call: A. Vispoli-Y, L. Gregory-Y, C. Huntress-Y, D. Koh-Y, A. Gilbert-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

V. Regular Business of the Board

A. Pioneer Institute (the presentation can be seen on www.andovertv.org and also available on the Town Website)

Alex Vispoli invited Andrew Mikula and Rebekah Paxton from the Pioneer Research Institute, an independent non-partisan public research group, to present information to the Board on the employment trends and the history of Andover's economy.

The two industries that emerged as employing the most workers are wholesale trade and manufacturing. Wholesale trade is 4x more concentrated in Andover than in any other area of the state, with Rte. 93 and Rte-495 being a big draw. The Retail Industry is up-and-coming with movements of tremendous growth, but we don't know if COVID-19 will accelerate its shift to e-commerce. Andover's wholesale trade, manufacturing, and education really stand out.

Andover has done a fine job but needs to engage more closely with long-term macro trends; Education, Arts, and Recreation are the most consistent job growth. Long term economic clusters offer a higher capacity for innovation, benefits from the proximity to other firms, and influence beyond Andover's borders as well as providing an opportunity for facilities 'branding' i.e. Rte. 128 America's Technology Highway.

Andover has surpassed most of their peers, but unlike Andover, several peer communities specializing in health care, have benefitted from Covid related loans. COVID may make negative long-term trends in Andover's industries, especially the small independent Main Street businesses. In Andover, health care makes up a number of Andover start-ups, foreshadowing a shift in the Town's most dominant industries.

The unemployment rate in Andover is slightly below that of peer communities. The Federal Paycheck Program kept an estimated 4,102 of Andover's workers employed during COVID. Andover is doing a lot on the local level to help businesses survive and provide a lot of good things that a town can do for its businesses. Andover is at the forefront of what some of the adaptations look like and continue to be an example for other towns.

As the Town moves forward with creating a master plan, Alex Vispoli said this information is timely and assists with helping to create a branding name, public policy, zoning, and land use information.

Laura Gregory: What can we do at a local level. Mr. Mikula said permitting elements could change that would, for example, allowing sidewalk sales, and to look into the idea of area of towns that historically had small establishments that were once allowed in town and now aren't, reinserting the economic vitality of small towns.

Chris Huntress: How would we take this information and bring it to the employers and talk about what other hurdles to keep expanding Andover and to make them more successful? On the Municipal level, it makes sense to be responsive to individual business owners (i.e. outdoor dining). Consider the use of surveys aimed at how you can be more flexible with permitting and zoning. Hopefully, the Master Plan will include addressing on-going needs of small business owners.

Dan Koh asked about PPP saving 4,000 jobs in Andover. There has been criticism about how the data for PPP has been compiled and this data is all based on the SBA's estimate. We will know more when the loan forgiveness information comes out. We do need stimulus money from somewhere to motivate business. Now that we have the data that

is out there, it shows that there were a lot of businesses that should have received PPP loans that didn't.

The Board thanked Rebekah and Andrew for their presentation. They also thanked Alex Vispoli for arranging this presentation.

B. Update on Annual Town Meeting

Town Moderator, Sheila Doherty provided an update on the schedule for the 2020 Annual Town Meeting which will be held on Saturday, September 12th at 9:30 AM, outside in the field by West Middle School, with a tent that will accommodate up to 700 people in social-distancing. Public safety protocols will be in place coordinated with many of the Town Departments. Sheila will, as required, make a declaration to the State Attorney General on the Town Meeting will be held and postpone the Town Meeting again from the August 22nd to the September 12th date. Information will be sent out to all residents as soon as the date is official.

C. State Primary Warrant

Town Clerk, Austin Simko is requesting approval of the Warrant for the September 1st State Primary Election. The warrant is for the first of two elections, the second being the November 3rd Election, that will be held in the same polling locations used in June.

Dan Koh moved to approve the Warrant for the September 1, 2020 State Primary. The motion was seconded by Alex Vispoli. Roll call: C. Huntress-Y, L. Gregory-Y, A. Vispoli-Y, D. Koh-Y, A. Gilbert-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

D. Zoning Board of Appeals Appointments

The Board discussed the need for a process that they can agree on for appointments to Zoning Board of Appeals. There are 3 openings; 2 seeking re-appointment and one vacancy, with approximately 8-10 candidates to be publicly interviewed. The Board determined with that so many candidates a sub-committee would be the preferred method; should the number of candidates decrease, it may make sense to have the Board as a whole conduct the interviews. The interviews would be held towards the end of August. Alex Vispoli and Chris Huntress volunteered to be on the sub-committee.

Laura Gregory moved to appoint a subcommittee to interview prospective members of the Zoning Board of Appeals on behalf of the Board and that we appoint Alex Vispoli and Chris Huntress as the subcommittee. Dan Koh seconded the motion. Roll call: A. Vispoli-Y, C. Huntress-Y, L. Gregory-Y, D. Koh-Y, A. Gilbert-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

VI. Consent Agenda

A. Appointments by the Town Manager

Dan Koh moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Alex Vispoli. Roll call: L. Gregory-Y, C. Huntress-Y, D. Koh-Y, A. Vispoli-Y, A. Gilbert-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

Department	Name	Position	Rate/Term	Date of Hire
Facilities	Andrew Padarat	Temporary	\$16.00/hr	8/11/2020

	(Blair Heffernan)	Filter Changer		
Facilities	Michael Gillespie (Michael Malandrino)	Junior Custodian	\$24.09/hr	8/11/2020
Community Services – Recreation	Anthony Zucco	Soccer Instructor	\$21.00/hr	8/3/2020
Community Services – Recreation	Kevin Park-Moran	Soccer Instructor	\$21.00/hr	8/3/2020
Cultural Council	Ria Gupta	Member	Term Expires 6/23/2020	7/1/2020
Cultural Council	Jessica McCormack	Member	Term Expires 6/23/2020	7/1/2020

VII. Future Meeting Dates

A. Board to vote to approve the following future meeting dates:

Alex Vispoli moved that the Board accept the meeting dates of September 14, and 28th, October 5, and 19, November 2 and 16, December 7 and 14, 2020.* The motion was seconded by Chris Huntress. Roll call: C. Huntress-Y, A. Vispoli-Y, L. Gregory-Y, D. Koh-Y, A. Gilbert-Y. *Additional meetings may be added prior to Town Meeting and for the Town Manager's mid-year review.

VIII. Adjourn

At 8:54 P.M. Dan Koh moved to adjourn from the Select Board meeting of August 10, 2020. The motion was seconded by Alex Vispoli.

Roll call: C. Huntress-Y, A. Vispoli-Y, L. Gregory-Y, D. Koh-Y, A. Gilbert-Y.

Motion passes 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo

Dee DeLorenzo

Recording Secretary

Rev.

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Select Board will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to watch the meeting may do so in the following manner: Andover TV COMCAST CHANNEL 22 AND VERIZON CHANNEL 45. Members of the public who wish to ask a question on particular agenda items during the meeting can do so by calling 311 from their landline or cell phone within the geographical boundaries of Andover or by calling 978-623-8311 from anywhere or by emailing manager@andoverma.gov. Residents are encouraged to email their questions ahead of the meeting, however, staff will be available to present the Board with questions received during the meeting. Please include your name and address with your question.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Town's website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.